

Attorney Docket No.: VN-169RI

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Rangan, et al.

Serial No.: 09/173,582

Filed: October 15, 1998

For: DATA COMMUNICATION  
NETWORK WITH TRANSFER  
PORT, CASCADE PORT AND/OR  
FRAME SYNCHRONIZING  
SIGNAL

Examiner: Ton, D.

Group Art Unit: 2732

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

OFFICIAL

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the office action mailed February 1, 2000, please examine the above-identified application in view of the following amendment and remarks. A petition for extension of time accompanies this amendment and is hereby requested.

## IN THE CLAIMS:

43. (amended) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the apparatus further comprises a cascade port, wherein the cascade port is coupled between first and second isochronous hubs without using a backbone network.

45. (amended) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the processor receives an interrupt that indicates that a signaling channel receiver or transmitter of a physical layer device needs to be processed by the processor.

58. (amended) In a data communication network for communicating isochronous and non-isochronous data between data stations over a communications medium including at least